



SAAHITHI POLURI

Saahithi Poluri is a senior at Round Rock High School in Texas, USA, and is interested in computational biology, transcriptomics, and computer-aided drug discovery. In her previous first-author research, she analyzed publicly available gene expression datasets to identify differentially expressed genes and molecular pathways associated with HIV/tuberculosis co-infection and explored potential therapeutic candidates. Her research abstract was selected as one of the top 12 from 125+ abstracts for oral presentation at the 13th Annual High School GIDAS Research Conference, where she earned first place in Oral Presentation Section II. She has since expanded her research into Parkinson's disease drug repurposing, integrating transcriptomic analysis and bioinformatics tools to investigate potential therapeutic candidates. Beyond her own research, she is passionate about democratizing scientific discovery by helping other students explore biology through accessible computational tools, including GEO, STRING, and iLINCS. Aspiring to become a physician-scientist, Saahithi hopes to bridge molecular research and clinical medicine to advance therapeutic discovery and improve patient outcomes.

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